

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: 1977 GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS

SUMMARY: FIRST WEEK OF OFFICIAL 1977 ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD BROUGHT FEW SURPRISES AND LIMITED AMOUNT OF PUBLIC POLITICAL ACTIVITY AS ALL PARTIES SEEMED TO BE GETTING UP SPEED GRAD-

UALLY. BY END OF WEEK, HOWEVER, CHARGES WERE RAISED THAT TWO PPP WORKERS HAD BEEN SHOT IN EAST JAVA, AND AN INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN PROMISED REGARDING COMPLAINTS THAT PARTIES HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO ENTER CANDIDATES IN SOME REGENCIES IN SOUTH SULAWESI. END SUMMARY.

1. INDONESIA'S OFFICIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD OPENED FEBRUARY 24 WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF THREE COMPETING PARTIES. GOLKAR GENERAL CHAIRMAN AMIR MURTONO SAID GOLKAR WOULD NOT USE COERCION OR PRESSURE TO GET VOTES, ITS GOAL WAS AT LEAST 62 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE, AND IT WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN SUHARTO AND THE SULTAN AS PRESIDENT AND V.P. RESPECTIVELY. PPP DEPUTY SEC-GEN CHALID MAWARDI SAID HIS PARTY AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE DPR AND WOULD

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EMPHASIZE HONESTY AND JUSTICE. PPP ALSO SUPPORTED SUHARTO. PDI CHAIRMAN USEP ANNOUNCED PDI WOULD PRODUCE SURPRISES IN CAMPAIGN, BUT REFUSED TO COMMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

2. IN FIRST TV SPEECH OF CAMPAIGN, PPP SPOKESMAN SOEDARDJI STRESSED NEED TO MAKE DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH IDEALISM AND CREATIVITY TO MEET NEEDS OF YOUNGER GENERATION, WHICH COULD

BE DISILLUSIONED BY CORRUPTION. HE PROFESSED LOYALTY TO NEW ORDER AND PANCASILA DEMOCRACY, BUT POINTED OUT THAT VOTE WOULD BE SECRET AND NO ONE WOULD KNOW HOW ANOTHER PERSON VOTED SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE INTIMIDATED. FOLLOWING EVENING WAS GOLKAR'S TURN ON TV, AND PROF. DR. ABOEBAKAR NOTED GOLKAR'S CAPABILITIES AND BROAD SUPPORT, AND POINTED WITH PRIDE TO TANGIBLE RESULTS OF NEW ORDER'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. SOEDARDJI READ HIS SPEECH IN MATTER-OF-FACT STYLE WITH EYES DOWN, WHILE ABOEBAKAR DELIVERED HIS WITH VERVE AND PERSUASION. ALL SUCH SPEECHES ARE PRE-RECORDED AND CLEARED BY GOVERNMENT CENSORS. PDI TURN WILL COME MARCH 4.

3. THERE HAS BEEN ONLY A HANDFUL OF RALLIES AND PARADES SO FAR IN JAKARTA, AND NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE. PARTY SYMBOLS CAN

BE SEEN POSTED LIBERALLY ON WALLS, FENCES AND TREES. PRESS CAMPAIGNING LIMITED TO SUARA KARYA AND BERITA YDUHA, WHICH ARE PUSHING GOLKAR HARD, AND PELITA, WHICH IN MORE RESTRAINED MANNER PRESENTS PPP NEWS.

4. ONE UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT WAS ANNOUNCEMENT FEB 28 THAT NEW PRESIDENTIAL DECREE HAD REVERSED OCTOBER 1976 REGULATION PROHIBITING CAMPAIGNING BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES UNLESS THEY WERE MEMBERS OF A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. NOW ALL OFFICIALS CAN CAMPAIGN FREELY, AND REACTION OF PPP AND PDI LEADERS REFLECTED GENERAL DISMAY.

5. ANOTHER SURPRISE WAS CHARGE BY PPP LEADER CHALIK ALI THAT TWO PPP PARTY COMMISSIONERS HAD BEEN SHOT AND WOUNDED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECURITY AGENTS AT CAMPAIGN RALLY IN SITUBONDO, EAST JAVA, FEB. 27 IT WAS ALSO ALLEGED THAT SHOTS HAD BEEN FIRED AT PPP CAMPAIGNERS IN SAMPANG, MADURA. BOTH LOCALITIES GAVE MAJORITIES TO MUSLIM PARTIES IN 1971. AT MARCH 1 PRESS CONFERENCE, KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD INVESTIGATE REPORTS AND TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES, ADDING THAT HE HAD ORDERED SPECIAL FORUMS SET UP TO HANDLE SUCH CASES. SUDOMO ALSO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO SITUATION IN SOUTH SULAWESI, WHERE POLITICAL PARTIES WERE ALLEGEDLY NOT

PERMITTED TO RUN CANDIDATES IN SOME REGENCIES. SUDOMO DENIED EXISTENCE OF "PARTY FREE ZONE" CLAIMING PARTIES WERE NOT PREPARED TO PRESENT CANDIDATES THERE, BUT PARTY SPOKESMAN CHARGED THAT LOCAL OFFICIALS HAD REFUSED THEM THE NECESSARY REGISTRATION FORMS.

6. COMMENT: CAMPAIGN HAS OPENED SLOWLY BUT IS SURE TO PICK UP SPEED (AND PROBABLY HEAT) IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF ENERGY, POLISH, AND RESOURCES OF COMPETING FORCES REFLECT

CURRENT POWER POSITIONS, WITH GOLKAR OBVIOUS FRONT-RUNNER,
PPP A RESPECTABLE SECOND, AND PDI A DISTANT THIRD.
GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IS STILL CALM, BUT SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN
MUSLIM AREAS AND REPORTS OF ILLEGAL PAMPHLETS CIRCULATING
SUGGEST GENUINE DETERMINATION ON ALL SIDES TO MAKE STRONG
SHOWING.
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BROUGHT FEW SURPRISES AND LIMITED AMOUNT OF PUBL IC
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